

Spring 1-15-2012

ENG 2205-001: Introduction to Literary Studies

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2205-001

English 2205: Introduction to Literary Studies

TR 9:30 – 10:45; CH 3150

Spring 2012

Professor Richard Sylvia

Office: 3775 CH

Office Hours: MTWR 11:00 – 12:00 noon; and by appt.

Phone: 581-6292

email: rsylvia@eiu.edu

Course Description, Design, and Goals: This course introduces you to the discipline of literary study, focusing on the close reading of several works of fiction (short stories and a novel) and a selection of 20th century poetry. We will also read critical, or secondary, responses to some of these works and discuss the theories and methodologies informing those responses. Throughout the semester we will work on identifying and developing a discrete set of skills that professional readers depend on in the interpretive process, including writing and research skills. The general goal is to sophisticate our understanding of what it means to “read” a work of literature and to get lots of practice doing it in an organized, productive way.

Texts: Barry, P. *English in Practice* (handouts)

Dickens, C. *Hard Times*

Doyle, A. C. *Sherlock Holmes: The Major Stories*

Foster, T. *How to Read Like a Professor* (handouts)

Hardy, T. *Wessex Tales*

Ramazani, T. *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*

Richter, D. *Falling into Theory*

Shakespeare. *The Tempest*

Requirements and Grading:

- 1) daily preparation of the assigned readings
- 2) daily in-class writing
- 3) two brief papers – 30% (15% each)
- 4) one research paper – 20%
- 5) two exams – 30%
- 6) one class report – 10%
- 7) class participation – 10%

You must complete successfully all the work listed above to pass the course.

Course Policies:

Bring your book to class (i.e. the one from which the day’s reading is assigned).

I do not accept late papers without a valid excuse. If you have a problem completing an assignment, speak to me before it is due. Sometimes even a brief conversation can clear up difficulties. Essays must be double-spaced, using one-inch margins and a font no larger than 12 point.

In-class writing assignments cannot be made up.

Attendance at all class meetings is expected, but not required. You cannot earn class participation points (10%) if you do not attend regularly.

This is a writing-intensive course. You may submit an essay from this class for your EWP. For more information, visit the assessment website: <http://www.eiu.edu/~assess>.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

I enforce the English Department Statement on Plagiarism: "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism – 'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's own original work' (Random House Dictionary) – has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

Tentative Schedule:

Jan. 10: introduction to course: "Why We Read"

Jan. 12: Vendler, "What We Have Loved, Others Will Love"; Graff, "Disliking Books at an Early Age" (*Falling Into Theory*)

The Short Poem

Jan. 17: *Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry* (Carl Sandberg)

Jan. 19: *Norton* (Edna St. Vincent Millay)

Jan. 24: *Norton* (Langston Hughes)

Jan. 26: *Norton* (Marianne Moore)

Jan. 31: *Norton* (Theodore Roethke); **paper #1 due**

Feb. 2: *Norton* (Roethke)

The Short Story

Feb. 7: Hardy, "The Three Strangers"

Feb. 9: Hardy, "The Withered Arm"

Feb. 14: Hardy, "Interlopers at the Knap"

Feb. 16: Doyle, "The Man with the Twisted Lip"

Feb. 21: Doyle, "The Speckled Band"

Feb. 23: Doyle, "Charles Augustus Milverton"; **paper #2 due**

Feb. 28: **mid-term exam**

The Novel

Mar. 2: Dickens, *Hard Times*, Book the First ("Sowing"), I -- VIII

Mar. 6: *Hard Times*, Book the First ("Sowing"), IX -- XVI

Mar. 8: *Hard Times*, Book the Second ("Reaping"), I -- VI

Mar. 13, 15: **Spring Break**

Mar. 20: *Hard Times*, Book the Second ("Reaping"), VII -- XII

Mar. 22: *Hard Times*, Book the Third ("Garnering"), I -- IV

Mar. 27: *Hard Times*, Book the Third ("Garnering"), V -- IX

Critical Responses to *Hard Times*

Mar. 29: class report; essay to be assigned

Apr. 3: class report; essay to be assigned

Apr. 5: class report; essay to be assigned

Apr. 10: class report; essay to be assigned

The Drama

Apr. 12: Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, Acts 1, 2; "The Life and Work of . . ."

Apr. 17: *The Tempest*, Acts 3, 4, 5; "Why Study Critical Controversies about . . ."

Apr. 19: "Literary Study, Politics, and Shakespeare: A Debate"

Apr. 24: "The Postcolonial Challenge"; **research paper due**

Apr. 26: "The Feminist Challenge"

Apr. 30: **Final Exam, 10:15 – 12:15 am**